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LYCOPODIUM COMPLANATUM, VAR. FLABELLIFORME WITH TWENTY-FIVE SPIKES. On page 119, vol. 9, of the American Fern Journal, October-December, 1919, Prof. Jennings notes finding in the herbarium at the Carnegie Museum a specimen of *Lycopodium complanatum*, var. *flabelliforme* with seven spikes. The year 1919 was, in my region, very fruitful among the Lycopodiums. All through the season I noted every carpet of the plant thick set with its candles. When it came time to gather the Christmas greens, I found many interesting specimens. One fruiting branch had its normal two peduncles but the two were so divided and subdivided as to have in all twenty-five spikes, if a branch of one spike is to be counted as a spike. Another fruiting branch had its two peduncles, each with more than the normal number of spikes; but the central bud that should have produced the next year's growth, had developed like a continuation of the plant's main stem, was nearly a foot long and had rootlets.—M. A. MARSHALL, STILL RIVER, MASS.

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### American Fern Society

#### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR 1921.

The year 1921 was in several respects one of unusual interest and importance in the history of the American Fern Society, especially in membership increase, in the consideration of plans for greater future usefulness, and in the pleasure members derived from the impromptu meeting held in connection with the Fern Exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Boston in September. At this meeting there crystallized a feeling that had been entertained by several members quite independently that in view of the steadily increasing use of ferns as house plants it would be well

worth while to devote attention to the horticultural phases of fern study. From this developed the idea of stimulating the greenhouse cultivation of tropical ferns. These, most of us will agree, are quite as interesting as orchids, to which group so much attention has long been given, and are possessed of a charm and inherent beauty of grace lacking in most flowering plants. As a matter of fact, ferns and orchids grown together in the greenhouse are truly complementary, a fact very well known to growers and thoroughly appreciated by those who viewed the beautiful exhibits at Boston. The cultivation of tropical ferns is probably, on the whole, not more difficult than that of tropical orchids, and it ought to be carried on generally by private growers as a parallel activity. Hundreds of tropical ferns are cultivated in British conservatories and are well known in their "trade," but only a fraction of these are grown in America. Besides these there are as many more kinds, equal or often superior, and readily available for introduction from the American tropics, which have never been brought under cultivation here or elsewhere, even in the larger botanical gardens. Once the unique beauty of these is partially appreciated their introduction is bound to follow. To make known their distinctive characters and excellence, with a view to their culture, is an entirely legitimate field for the Fern Society. In this there is no danger of infringing upon our original interest in the ferns of temperate North America, any more than the cultivation of selected varieties of *Fuchsia* and *Begonia* can be said to destroy a love of botanizing or an appreciation of one's local flora; and it was the consensus of opinion of members present at the Boston meeting that from now on greater attention ought to be given to exotic ferns, whether as house or conservatory plants.

The welcome increase in membership—now for the

first time above the 300 mark—will afford an opportunity of publishing more pages and more illustrations in the JOURNAL, to the Editors of which the Society is under renewed obligation for their painstaking and excellent editorial work. Of the new members the great majority are situated in New York and the New England states. More are needed from the South and West. If the exchange of specimens is as lively as it was 25 years ago, new members in the latter regions will be kept busy responding to the requests of their eastern fellow-members. Perhaps if only in self-protection they will become imbued with a missionary spirit that will bring in new members from their own regions!

To all new members the Society extends a word of cordial greeting: Make this society your own in every way, for it *is* your society just as much as it is that of members of many years seniority. Develop correspondence with distant members; you will find that you belong to a sort of guild, and that your fellow-members will willingly give assistance in every way. Contribute notes, short articles, and queries to the JOURNAL; these are more useful than most other kinds of contributions, and are certainly more stimulating to the membership as a whole than are strictly technical articles. The new list of members recently published as a supplement to the JOURNAL, will be found very useful to members both new and old. The extremely low cost of publishing this list was made possible through the generosity of Mr. R. A. Ware. To him and the other members of the special committee on membership, Mrs. Carlotta C. Hall and Professor Winslow, are tendered the sincere thanks of the Society. Thanks are also due Professor Winslow and Miss Marshall for their continued and very successful efforts in disposing of back sets of the JOURNAL.

Publication of the presidential report for 1920 was, unfortunately, so much delayed that the suggestions for field study by members could not possibly be followed out last year. They are therefore urged for the season of 1922. A number of letters agreeing wholly as to the profit to be derived from intensive study of our familiar species have been received, and it is evident that the plan is regarded favorably. The points raised are as true now as when written. If the plan of studying the *Dryopteris* species is successful, other groups can be taken up in succeeding years. It is worth trying.

With thanks for the continued support of the members, and the hope that the present year may prove thoroughly successful,

Respectfully,

WILLIAM R. MAXON, *President*.

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### Report of the Secretary for 1921

Except for the Boston meeting, already reported elsewhere, there have been no special meetings by the Society during the past year.

Four members have died: Miss Mary L. Anderson, Stewardson Brown, Charles Noyes Forbes and Mrs. Emily Hitchcock Terry. Nine members have resigned. Forty-three new members have been received and the membership (December 31, 1921) stands at 301, a gain of thirty over last year. This establishes a new record for the Society; which is very gratifying, showing that it continues to enjoy the support of its members, and that the raising of the membership fee from one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents during 1921 has been in no way detrimental. It is hoped that such generous support may continue. A new and revised list of the members of the Society was prepared and issued as

a Supplement to the American Fern Journal, Vol. 11, No. 3.

The following gifts to the Society collections have been received:—Carl Christensen has contributed pamphlets on the ferns of Madagascar, Easter Island, and Juan Fernandez; also Part II of "A Monograph of the Genus *Dryopteris*" and other separates. William R. Maxon also sent in some old Fern Society annual reports.

S. H. BURNHAM, *Secretary*.

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Because of the great delay in issuing the JOURNAL and consequently in getting in the bills for the year, the Treasurer was unable to prepare his report in time to appear in this number. It will be printed in the next number.

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### **Report of the Editors for 1921**

During most of the year the editors have been thankful if the JOURNAL was issued at all, even if long past the appointed time. On May 1, 1921, the establishment which does our printing was completely tied up by a strike. The spring number of the JOURNAL, the make-up of which was ready and in the printers' hands on that date, finally appeared on October 12th. The summer number was correspondingly delayed; but we gained a little on No. 4 and, though the trouble is not yet over, we hope, given copy enough well in advance, to be back on schedule time before the year is out.

Beginning with number 4 of volume 11, we shall, barring unforeseen emergencies, have at least one illustration in each number. Several desirable pictures are now at hand and more are to come. Further prospects for the coming volume include an account of a plant and bird sanctuary actually in operation and

one or two articles on cultivated ferns, a line in which we hope to do more than in the past.

During the year there have been several additions to the list of libraries and institutions subscribing for the JOURNAL and, thanks to the efforts of our Vice-President and to the membership drive, the sale of back numbers has continued active. Only seven complete sets now remain in stock.

The Society includes members of many kinds from professional botanists to amateurs of comparatively little technical knowledge and beginners of almost none. They naturally regard fern study from different angles. So far as its necessary limitations permit, the JOURNAL aims, and exists, to serve the needs of all. It is not to be expected that everything in every number will be of equal interest to all; but it is hoped that every member will find in each number something of interest to him.

The Editors tender their heartiest thanks for the gifts for illustration received and for the interest shown and the support offered by members in other ways.

R. C. BENEDICT

E. J. WINSLOW

C. A. WEATHERBY

*Editors.*

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### Report of the Curator for 1921

Since the last Report of the Curator several important additions have been made to the Society Herbarium. Prof. J. C. Nelson of Salem, Ore. contributed specimens of *E. Telmateia* (dimorphic), *fluvatile* and *fluvatile polystachyum*; also some mounted specimens collected in Ontario by W. R. McColl. Mr. D. Leroy Topping has made important additional contributions from the Philippines and eastern Asia. Miss Elmira E. Noyes

of Portsmouth, Va., contributed a splendid set of ferns collected mainly in Virginia. Dr. C. E. Waters of the Bureau of Standards has presented the Society with his entire collection of Pteridophytes running well above 1500 sheets. These donations will increase the number of mounted sheets in the Society Herbarium by two thousand or more and will bring the total number of sheets up to about six thousand. In behalf of the Society the Curator wishes to thank those who have made the contributions just named

L. S. HOPKINS, *Curator.*

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### Report of the Judge of Elections for 1921

As Judge of Elections of the American Fern Society, I make the following report of the Election of Officers held in October 1921.

| <i>For President</i>       | <i>For Vice-President</i>   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wm. R. Maxon..... 85       | Miss M. A. Marshall..... 85 |
| Washington, D. C.          | Still River, Mass.          |
| <i>For Secretary</i>       | <i>For Treasurer</i>        |
| Stewart H. Burnham..... 85 | Jay G. Underwood,..... 85   |
| Ithaca, N. Y.              | Hartland, Vt.               |

The number of ballots cast was 85. I therefore declare the above persons elected.

Respectfully submitted,  
CHARLES C. PLITT, *Judge of Elections.*

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Miss Agnes W. Lincoln, a member of the American Fern Society since 1902, died at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury on December 27, 1921. Miss Lincoln was born in Medford, Mass., July 16, 1856, the daughter of Algernon Sydney Lincoln and Abby Bigelow Stone. She began her education in the public schools of Medford, later attended a private school in Boston, and to the time of her death devoted



a portion of each year to special courses of study first at Radcliffe College and later at the Boston University. She was an early member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, a member also of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and, in connection with her interest in antiquities joined the Massachusetts Historic Genealogical Society, the Medford Historical Society, and was for years corresponding secretary of the Stone Family Association. She had visited Europe several times, seen the sun rise from the rim of the crater of Kilawea in Hawaii and camped in the Canadian Rockies. She was always enthusiastic for the out of doors, fearless, sympathetic, thoroughly democratic, and childlike with all. Her home has always been in Medford.

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Through the kindness of Mr. Maxon the editors have received an obituary notice of Dr. Hieronymus of Berlin. Though rather a general taxonomist than a specialist in ferns, he had, probably, done more work on the pteridophytes than on any other group, and that work has added so much to our knowledge of the species of tropical and, in some cases, temperate America that it deserves more than a passing notice in our JOURNAL.

Georg Hieronymus was born at Schöneiche near Neumarkt in Silesia, Feb. 15, 1846. He was at first educated for a physician, but soon abandoned that profession for the study of botany. In 1873 he went to Cordoba in Argentina as a professor in the university there, a position which he held until 1883. In that year he returned to Germany, settling at Breslau and devoting himself to independent botanical research, especially on the algae of Silesia. He also contributed the treatment of several groups of flowering plants to Engler and Prantl's great work on the families of plants.

In 1892 he was offered and accepted a curatorship at the Berlin Botanical Museum, where he served until

shortly before his death. Here one of his chief tasks—or one which he chose for himself—was the organization of the Museum's extensive collection of ferns and fern allies. From this work resulted his many studies of fern floras of certain regions and of groups of pteridophytes, studies which have cleared up many problems of classification. To Americans, he is probably best known for his work on the genus *Selaginella*, especially in the group of *S. rupestris*.

He was for 28 years editor of *Hedwigia*, one of the foremost journals of cryptogamic botany. He died at Berlin Jan. 18, 1921, after a long illness.

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One more correction in the recently issued list of members is called for. Harold V. M. Halsey should be Harold V. W. Halsey.

New members:—

Mansfield, William, Dean of the Albany College of Pharmacy,  
Albany, N. Y.

Tilton, Rev. George H., 470 Lebanon St., Melrose, Mass.

Upham, Miss Ethel E., East Woodstock, Conn.

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Through a misunderstanding on the part of the editor responsible for the make-up of the JOURNAL, no mention was made in the last number of the fact that the plate of the climbing fern which appeared in it was contributed by Mrs. E. G. Britton. The editor at fault wishes to apologize to Mrs. Britton and to assure her of our gratitude for her generous gift.—C. A. W.